

REMARKS

Claims 1-40, 42-43, 45-48, 53, 58, 60-61, 63, 67-70, and 72-113 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part applications to any canceled subject matter. Claims 41, 44, 49-52, 54-57, 59, 62, 64-66, 71, 114 and new claims 115-119 are currently pending in this application.

Claim 41 has been amended to recite that L₁ and L₂ are each independently a branched or unbranched, hydrophilic, water-soluble uncharged polymer each independently having a molecular weight less than about 2000 Daltons. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as originally filed on page 16, lines 3-13. Claim 54 was amended to recite that L₁ or L₂ has a molecular weight of from about 100 to less than about 1500 Daltons. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification as originally filed on page 16, lines 3-13. New claims 115-118 depend from claim 41 and recite that L₁ or L₂ is each independently a PEG or polysaccharide. Support for new claims 115-118 can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. (*See, e.g.*, page 15, line 31 to page 16, line 25). Support for new independent claim 119 can also be found throughout the specification as originally filed. (*See, e.g.*, page 9, line 24 to page 1, line 3). No new matter has been introduced into this application by any of the amendments.

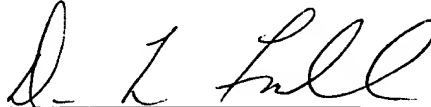
Respectfully, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Except for issues payable under 37 C.F.R. 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310.

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Respectfully submitted,
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